

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01 L-03 CIEP-02 DRC-01

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 /161 W
----- 092735

P R 140920Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5134

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

CINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, MT

SUBJ: GOM REQUEST FOR OIL TANKERS

REF: VALLETTA 0054

1. PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY WISTIN ABELA APPROACHED
CHARGE AT SOCIAL FUNCTION JAN 12 TO URGE EARLY
RESPONSE TO GOM REQUEST FOR OIL TANKERS. WITHOUT
GOING INTO ANY DETAIL, HE SAID NEED FOR USG RESPONSE
WAS MOST URGENT.

2. ITALIAN OIL TANKER MONTE OLIVETI ARRIVED SAME
DATE.ITS CARGO,ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS, WILL BE
SUFFICIENT FOR THREE MONTHS CONSUMPTION. THE FUEL
IS BEING TRANSFERRED TO SHELL FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH
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ITS OUTLETS AND THROUGHESSO RETAIL STATIONS AS WELL.

PRESS REPORTS THAT THIS SHIPMENT IS RESULT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOM AND MONTEDISON.

3. DESPITE GOM PRONOUNCEMENTS THAT THERE ARE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES, PRIVATE CONSUMERS HAVE BEEN MAKING A RUN ON BOTH GASOLINE AND DIESEL AND THERE APPPEARS TO BE SUBSTANTIAL HOARDING OF BOTH PRODUCTS.

4. ESSO MANAGER TELLS US THAT HE HAS AGREED TO PERMIT SHELL TO SUPPLY ESSO RETAIL OUTLETS AND TO ALLOW SHELL TO UTILIZE ESSO TANK TRUCKS. SHELL DECLINED THE TRUCKS, BUT WAS TOLD BY GOM TO SUPPLY THE ESSO STATIONS. HE ESTIMATES THAT AT PRESENT RETAIL PRICES SHELL WILL LOSE ABOUT FOUR MILLION DOLLARS IN 1974.

5. WHILE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT GOM DOING ITS UTMOST TO AVOID PRICE INCREASES BY SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM ITALY, LIBYA, AND NOW THE U.S., IT IS PROBABLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE PRICES OF REGULAR GASOLINE (CURRENTLY THE EQUIVALENT OF 56 U.S. CENT PER IMPERIAL GALLON) WILL HAVE TO BE INCREASES SUBSTANTIALY. TUCKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, CARGO SHIPS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005